

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An article-positioning machine of the type comprising the means to collect the articles $\{Z\}$ in a plurality of individual housings $\{10\}$ moving in a closed circuit and, in at least one drop zone $\{2a, 2b, 2c\}$ allow the orientated articles $\{Z\}$ to each drop inside a corresponding alignment conduit $\{3\}$ moved together with each housing $\{10\}$ and exit means to extract the orientated and aligned articles $\{Z\}$ from said alignment conduits $\{3\}$ onto an exit conveyor belt, ~~characterised in that~~ each alignment conduit $\{3\}$ comprises ~~comprising~~ an upper portion $\{20\}$ for article $\{Z\}$ -collection from the corresponding housing $\{10\}$, at least one moving intermediate portion $\{30\}$ defining at least one conduit $\{31, 32\}$ and a lower portion $\{40\}$ for receiving the articles $\{Z\}$ comprising at least two compartments $\{41, 42, 43\}$ existing in a stationary support plane $\{7\}$ interposed between the intermediate $\{30\}$ and lower $\{40\}$ portions, incorporating drive means $\{4\}$ to selectively move said intermediate portion $\{30\}$ in order to face said conduit $\{31, 32\}$ with the upper portion $\{20\}$ and receive an article $\{Z\}$ from the same, and/or face the conduit $\{31, 32\}$ with one or other said at least two compartments $\{41, 42, 43\}$ of the lower portion $\{40\}$ to transfer said article $\{Z\}$ to the same via at least one interruption $\{5a, 5b\}$ existing in said support plane $\{7\}$.
2. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said selective movement of the intermediate portion $\{30\}$ is transversal to the drop direction of the articles $\{Z\}$ along the alignment conduit $\{3\}$.
3. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said selective movement of the intermediate portion $\{30\}$ is a return movement with stops at the ends of travel and without intermediate stops, each stop determining at least one of the cited facings of cited at least one conduit $\{31, 32\}$.
4. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said intermediate portion $\{30\}$ comprises two adjacent conduits $\{31, 32\}$, said lower portion $\{40\}$ comprises three adjacent compartments $\{41, 42, 43\}$ and the support plane $\{7\}$ comprises at least two interruptions $\{5a, 5b\}$.

5. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said selective movement of the intermediate portion {30} is a return movement with stops at the ends of travel and at least one intermediate stop, each stop determining at least one of the cited facings of at least one conduit {31, 32}.
6. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 5, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said intermediate portion {30} comprises three adjacent conduits {31, 32} and said lower portion {40} comprises four or five adjacent compartments {41, 42, 43} and the support plane {7} comprises at least two interruptions {5a, 5b}.
7. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said intermediate portion {30} defines a single conduit {31, 32} and articulates with the lower end of the upper portion {20}, with said selective movement of the intermediate portion {30} pendular with stops at, at least the ends of travel, each stop determining at least one of the cited facings of the conduit {31, 32} with one of the compartments {41, 42, 43} while constantly maintaining the cited facing with the upper portion {20}.
8. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones {2a, 2b, 2c} as there are compartments {41, 42, 43} in the lower portion {40}.
9. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said drive means {4} ~~comprise~~ ~~comprises~~ at least one fluidodynamic cylinder associated with each intermediate portion {30} and independently controlled by control means.
10. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 5, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said drive means {4} ~~comprise~~ ~~comprises~~ at least one set of two fluidodynamic cylinders associated with each intermediate portion {30} and independently controlled by control means.
11. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 9-~~or~~10, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said drive means {4} also ~~comprise~~ ~~comprises~~ a mechanical movement transmission for each intermediate portion {30}.

12. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2-~~or 5~~, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said drive means ~~(4)~~ ~~comprise~~comprises at least one electric motor associated with each intermediate portion ~~(30)~~ and independently controlled by control means.
13. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2-~~or 5~~, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said drive means ~~(4)~~ ~~comprise~~comprises at least one electric motor and a mechanical movement transmission associated with each intermediate portion ~~(30)~~ with said electric motor independently controlled by control means.
14. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said drive means ~~(4)~~ ~~comprise~~comprises at least one stationary cam profile fixed to a machine bed and at least one cam follower associated with each intermediate portion ~~(30)~~.
15. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said housings ~~(10)~~ are adapted to collect the articles ~~(Z)~~ in a horizontal and pre-orientated position.
16. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said housings ~~(10)~~ and their corresponding upper access portions ~~(20)~~ comprise respective lateral moving parts ~~(11, 21)~~ coupled together and susceptible to being changed position to adapt the housings ~~(10)~~ and upper portions ~~(20)~~ to articles ~~(Z)~~ of different sizes.
17. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 16, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said housings ~~(10)~~ and/or their corresponding upper portions ~~(20)~~ also comprise respective interior moving parts ~~(14)~~ susceptible to being changed position to adapt the housings ~~(10)~~ and upper portions ~~(20)~~ to articles ~~(Z)~~ of different sizes.
18. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said lower portions ~~(40)~~ comprise at least one lateral moving part ~~(44, 45, 46)~~ associated with each compartment ~~(41, 42, 43)~~, with said lateral moving part ~~(44, 45, 46)~~ susceptible to being changed position to adapt the lower portions ~~(40)~~ to articles ~~(Z)~~ of different sizes.
19. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 18, ~~characterised in thatwherein~~ said lower portions ~~(40)~~ also comprise at least one interior moving part ~~(64, 65, 66)~~ associated with each compartment ~~(41, 42, 43)~~, with said lateral moving parts ~~(64, 65, 66)~~

susceptible to being changed position to adapt the lower portions {40} to articles {Z} of different sizes.

20. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ said upper portions {20} and/or intermediate portions {30} and/or lower portions {40} form respective moving assemblies susceptible to being changed position to adapt the upper {20} and/or intermediate {30} and/or lower {40} portions to articles {Z} of different sizes.

21. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 2, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

22. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 3, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

23. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 4, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

24. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 5, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

25. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 6, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

26. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 7, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

27. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 10, wherein said drive means also comprises a mechanical movement transmission for each intermediate portion.

28. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 5, wherein said drive means comprises at least one electric motor associated with each intermediate portion and independently controlled by control means.

29. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 5, wherein said drive means comprises at least one electric motor and a mechanical movement transmission associated with each intermediate portion with said electric motor independently controlled by control means.